MINUTES OF THE FLAT RIVER ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES

OF THE

FLAT RIVER

ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

CAMP CREEK

MEETING-HOUSE,

ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE

THIRD LORD'S DAY

IN OCTOBER, 1819.

1819

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MINUTES, &c.

According to appointment the Association met, and Elder Gardner being absent, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder Thomas Crocker from Isaiah xxvi, 3.

1. Elder George Roberts was appointed Moderator.

2. Letters from eleven churches, being presented by their proper messengers, were read, and the names of the messengers enrolled as follows:

1 *Neuse*—James Weathers, William Brown, John Terrel.

2 *Cedar Creek*—Stephen Johnson, Moses Neal.

3 *Æno*—William W. Farthing, Henry Bunch and Thomas Freeman.

4 *Tanners*—William Rudd, Guilford Talley*.

5 *Tabb's Creek*—Young Montague, Kennan Parham, Elder E. Battle.

6 *Buffaloe*—Philip Haley, Thomas Owen, Pleasant Gold*.

7 *Locke's*—Elias Bowden, Blount Cooper.

8 *Grassey Creek*—William Werrel, Charles Smith, Thomas Vass.

9 *Tar River*—Robert Obryan, William Jones, Abraham Slaughter.

10 *Camp Creek*—Roland Cooke, John Jinkins, William Collins.

11 *Mount Carmell*—* William Henry Merritt*, Thomas Weaver, Jacob Creath.

3 Corresponding Messengers presented their letters as follows.

From Country Line Association. } Elder Geo. Roberts, & Elder William Brown.

Sandy Creek—Major Dismukes.

Raleigh—Thomas Crocker.

Roanoake—Elder Holt.

* Absentees.

4 These together with brother John Delahay and Rev'd. John Chaves, visiting brethren, being invited, took seats with us.

5 Elders George Roberts, William Brown, and Abner W. Clopton were appointed to preach on tomorrow, it being Lord's day: worship to commence at 10 o'clock.

6 Elders, Weathers, Brown, and Battle, and brother Jacob Creath and brother William Farthing, together with the Moderator and Clerk were appointed a select Committee to make arrangements for Monday.

7 Brethren Obryan, Farthing and Bunch were appointed to receive the contributions of the churches.

8 *Resolved*, That the association meet at half after 9 o'clock on Monday.

9 After prayer by Elder Roberts, the Association adjourned 'till Monday morning.

It must not here be omitted, that while the Association were engaged in business Elder Holt and brother Jacob Creath preached at the stage.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

Divine worship was introduced by Elder William Brown, who preached from Zeph. iii. 12.

Elder Roberts then preached from Daniel. ii. 4.

He was succeeded by Elder A. W. Clopton, who preached from ii. Cor. xiii. 5.

The congregation was very large and in part orderly and attentive.

Monday Morning Oct. 18.

The Association convened; and after prayer by Elder Battle proceeded to business.

1. The select committee to whom was refered

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the business of making arrangements for Monday, having made a satisfactory report, were discharged.

2. The corresponding messengers to the General Meeting made satisfactory report.

3. The corresponding messengers to the Country Line Association reported, and their report was received.

4. The corresponding messengers to Country Line Association, ; to Roanoke, Kehuke and Raleigh Associations reported; and their report was received.

5. Elder Weathers made report in regard to his non attendance on ordination of Elder A. W. Clopton, and his report was received.

6. The Presbytery appointed to attend the ordination of brother Gold made satisfactory report.

7. The Clerk made satisfactory report in regard to the funds of the Association.

8. *Resolved*, That the Clerk be allowed $5 per year for his services, and that the provision embrace the several Associations, since he came into office.

9. *Resolved*, That the Clerk prepare and annex to these Minutes a Circular letter on such subject as he may deem proper.

10. At the urgent request of a part of the Association the business of the General Meeting was postponed till the next Association.

11. Elders Roland Cooke, James Weathers, Abner W. Clopton and brother William Farthing were appointed messengers to the next General Meeting.

12. *Resolved*, That this Association recommend to the Church at Grassy Creek, to postpone the ordination of brother Wirrel.

13. *Resolved*, That in conformity with the re-

quest of the Church, at Grassy Creek, the third Lord's day in November be set apart for a day of fasting and prayer.

14. Elders Clopton and Creath were appointed messengers to Country Line Association; Cooke and Weathers to Raleigh; Clopton, Gold and brother Farthing to Roanoke.

15. *Resolved*, That the next Association be held at Tar River, on the Saturday before the 3d Lord's day in October; and that Elder A. W. Clopton preach the introductory sermon.

16. *Resolved*, That the Clerk prepare and have printed and distributed 150 copies of these Minutes.

17. Elder Battle having resigned as Clerk, in this Association, for the General Board of Foreign Missions, Elder A. W. Clopton was appointed in his stead.

18. Whereas it appears that a letter was addressed to the select committee, on Saturday night last, by Dr. Benjamin Bullock, seriously involving the moral character of Elder Roland Cooke, Therefore resolved, by and with the consent of the Church at this place, and at the particular request of said Elder Roland Cooke, that Elders George Roberts, William Brown, A. W. Clopton, brother William Farthing and the Rev'd. ——— Chaves, be and are hereby, appointed a committee, to attend, at this place, on the Monday after 3d Lord's day in November, for the purpose of examining into the said charges against Elder Cooke: and that they report thereon, and that the Clerk insert their report in these Minutes.

After prayer by Elder Roberts the Association adjourned.

Monday Nov. 1819.

The committee having met according to appointment, report, that, after a full hearing and examination of witnesses and other evidences, in regard to the first allegation, it is their decided and unanimous opinion, that, if Elder Roland Cook said he had a copy of Mr. Welbourn's Will, he made this declaration, under the full impression, that Dr. Bullock was under obligations to write out the *real* Will, according to the rough draught which Elder Cook then had and which he therefore called a copy of Mr. Welbourn's Will: and that, though it may not contain precisely the same words; yet inasmuch as Elder Cook believed, that the *real* Will was written by it, he has not, been guilty of falsehood, in saying what is contained in Dr. Bullock's first allegation against him. Seeing also he stands further justified by the declaration of Mr. Welbourn that it (the rough draught) was the copy of his Will.

In regard to the second allegation contained in Dr. Bullock's letter against Elder Cook, The committee report, that upon examination of the rough draught of the will, they cannot think it strange that Elder Cook should put such construction upon it as seriously to implicate the character of Dr. Bullock. They do not by this insinuate that Dr. Bullock intended fraud. Far be it from them. But inasmuch as the last clause in the rough draught reads thus: "my will is that Jerry and Jenny belong to B. B;" and inasmuch as Elder Cook formed his opinion of Dr. Bullock's intention from the rough draught alone; they feel in duty bound to acquit him (the said Cooke) of the charge of falsehood in saying 'by the will Dr. Bullock willed two negroes to himself."

Upon the whole, the committee are unanimous in acquitting him of the charges. But at the same time they feel no less hesitation, in giving it as their opinion, that from the face of the *real* will, exhibited by Dr. Bullock, there is not a shadow of suspicion, that he intended any thing like fraud when he wrote the rough draught.

In regard to other allegations of Dr. Bullock against Elder Cook; or allegations of said Elder Cook against Dr. Bullock the committee feel themselves under no obligation to attend to them. So far from justifying hard speeches in either party they most sincerely deprecate them: and earnestly pray that the veil of oblivion may, by each party, be cast over the unhappy contention.

After prayer by Elder Roberts the committee adjourned.

GEORGE ROBERTS Chairman
A. W. CLOPTON Clerk.

Having been directed by the Association to prepare a Circular to be annexed to these Minutes I venture to substitute instead of it the following resolutions taken from the Latter Day Luminary. It is certain that many of the Brethen entertain very erroneous ideas in regard to the Theological Institution now in contemplation. And it is hoped that the information contained in these Resolutions, if it should not procure their friendship to the institution, will in some degree remove their prejudices.

A. W. CLOPTON.

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

In a former number of this work, a Plan for an Institution for pious young men called by the churches to the Christian ministry, was submitted by the Board of Missions for the

consideration of the churches and brethren throughout the United States. Understanding from the American Baptist Magazine, that it is wished that "the Plan laid before the Convention at its last meeting by the President," be also made public, we cheerfully introduce it. The utmost light that can be thrown on the important subject is desirable.

Proposed Resolutions, including a scheme of Education, having for its object the assistance of pious young men designed for the gospel ministry, which were laid before the Baptist Convention at Philadelphia, in May, 1817.

I. *Resolved,* That it be recommended by this convention, to the Baptist churches throughout the United States, and their adherents, to form themselves into education societies, for the purpose of aiding pious young men of their connexion, who appear on good evidence to be called of God to the gospel ministry, in obtaining such education as may best fit them for extensive usefulness in the cause of our Redeemer, and enable them to appear as workmen who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth: And likewise for assisting poor ministers, who have families, and have not obtained the advantages which are derived from a suitable education, by gratuitously furnishing them with the most necessary and useful books, to aid them in their endeavors to obtain mental improvement. For the accomplishment of which design the following scheme is submitted to the consideration of the churches.

1 st. Let a charity sermon be preached once a year, at least, in each church, and a collection made expressly for the purposes above specified; and let the monies so collected, together with any other collections, donations or bequests obtained for such purposes, be conveyed by the hands of a person

specially appointed as a representative to attend the meeting of the associations to which such church belongs, and there to be deposited in a common fund, under the direction of a body of delegates similarly appointed by other churches belonging to that association or to a number of associations uniting in the same measure as a common cause: excepting always such part of the monies, (say a third part) as shall be appropriated to the establishment and support of a Theological Seminary, in our connection, to be hereinafter described; which last sum shall be conveyed to the general fund, and be placed under the care and direction of the Board of commissioners connected with this Convention, or such part of them as shall be instructed with the superintendence of the education department.

2d. Let the body formed by the coalition of churches, as above recommended, be styled the General Committee, or Trustees of the churches united in Association or Associations, and have a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and assistants, who shall be authorized to transact all necessary business as a special committee during the recess of the general committee.

3d. Let this committee of the churches be invested with full powers to examine applicants for the churches' bounty, with respect to their qualifications, according to the sentiment before expressed; to wit, that ministers must be the subject of renewing grace, be called of God to the office, and receive gifts of Jesus Christ, the great prophet of the church, to fit them for the work.

4th. Let the committee by their proper officers, contract for the education of the young men so taken under their care, at some convenient seminary; superintend their education and morals, that

the former may be promoted by due excitement, & the latter preserved in purity ; a departure from which shall be considered as incurring censure & the loss of privilege. It shall also be considered as the object of their care, to secure the return of money to the fund, which may have been expended at any time on the education of persons who do not, in a reasonable time after they have completed their studies, enter on the work of the ministry to the satisfaction of the committee.

5th. After young men thus provided for, have finished their classical studies, or obtained a proper acquaintance with general science, let it be the concern for the churches to place them in a situation favourable to the study of divinity. While in circumstances which prevent their obtaining more ample assistance, let the students come under the care of some pious, well informed, and judicious minister ; but when a divinity college shall have been established, according to the provision made in the constitution of this Convention, let as many of them as the respective funds of the societies, or churches, can support, be sent to said seminary ; especially those who possess superior talents, together with a desire and aptness for study.

6th. As it is possible that some churches belonging to the associations may refuse or neglect to make contributions, and that embarrassments may arise from this cause, let the exclusive right of managing the business of the fund be vested in the delegates of those churches which regularly contribute to its support.

II. *Resolved*, That as soon as a sufficient fund shall be obtained for this purpose, the Board of commissioners shall take measures for establishing, at some convenient and central situation, a Theological Seminary and Library, under the care of

learned, pious professors; in which theology shall be studied in its various branches, church history, the Hebrew language, and other oriental languages, the knowledge of which is favourable to a right understanding of the sacred scriptures, as far as the same may be found practicable and convenient, together with biblical criticism and pulpit eloquence.

III. *Resolved*, That the agents, or missionaries, which may be appointed by the Board of missions to travel in our own country, shall be particularly charged with the important concern of giving information to the churches of our denomination, and the public at large, concerning the true nature and design of the scheme in which the foregoing articles are comprehended, of recommending it to their serious regard, and of affording assistance to those who may be disposed to bring it into operation, in what relates to a right beginning and organization.

FINIS.